

# **The Nature Conservancy's Partnership with the Department of Defense**

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<b>Report Documentation Page</b>			Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
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1. REPORT DATE <b>01 AUG 2004</b>	2. REPORT TYPE <b>N/A</b>	3. DATES COVERED <b>-</b>		
<b>4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE</b> <b>The Nature Conservancy's Partnership with the Department of Defense</b>			5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
			5b. GRANT NUMBER	
			5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
<b>6. AUTHOR(S)</b>			5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
			5e. TASK NUMBER	
			5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
<b>7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)</b> <b>The Nature Conservancy</b>			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
<b>9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)</b>			10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
			11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
<b>12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT</b> <b>Approved for public release, distribution unlimited</b>				
<b>13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES</b> <b>See also ADM002111. Department of Defense Conservation Conference. Held in Savannah, Georgia on August 22-27, 2004, The original document contains color images.</b>				
<b>14. ABSTRACT</b>				
<b>15. SUBJECT TERMS</b>				
<b>16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:</b>			<b>17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT</b> <b>UU</b>	
a. REPORT <b>unclassified</b>	b. ABSTRACT <b>unclassified</b>	c. THIS PAGE <b>unclassified</b>	<b>18. NUMBER OF PAGES</b> <b>15</b>	<b>19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON</b>

# DoD - TNC Collaboration

*The Master Cooperative Agreement*



Current version in effect thru April 05

Text Available on DENIX

Discussions on new, revised CA to begin  
soon

# Sustainable Ranges and Installations: The Role of the TNC-DoD Partnership

- Assistance with on base conservation programs
  - Fire management planning and execution
  - Vegetation mapping/species inventories
  - INRMP and other conservation planning
  - Implementing ITAM and other range management programs
- On-base partnerships build trust, help ensure access to test and training areas, and facilitate later work on encroachment issues

# Sustainable Ranges and Installations: The Role of the TNC-DoD Partnership

- Preventing/abating encroachment
  - Preventing incompatible development through land conservation action - “2811” agreements
  - Incorporation of conservation planning in the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) and other DoD programs
  - Integration of base conservation planning with other planning in the ecoregion
  - Possibilities for the future: habitat “banking” to allow more flexibility inside the fenceline

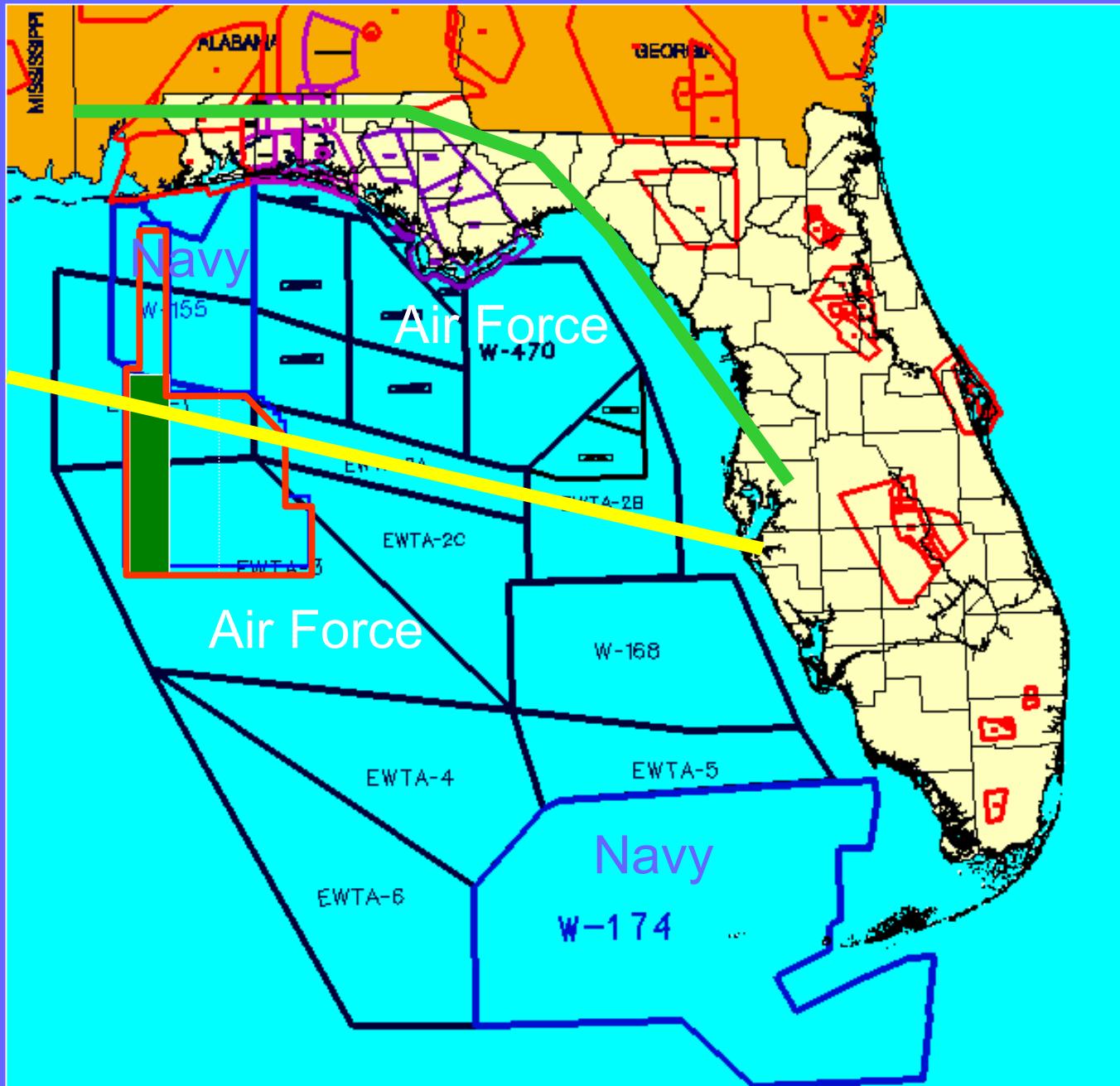
# The Process

- Compare mission-essential objectives
  - DoD
  - TNC

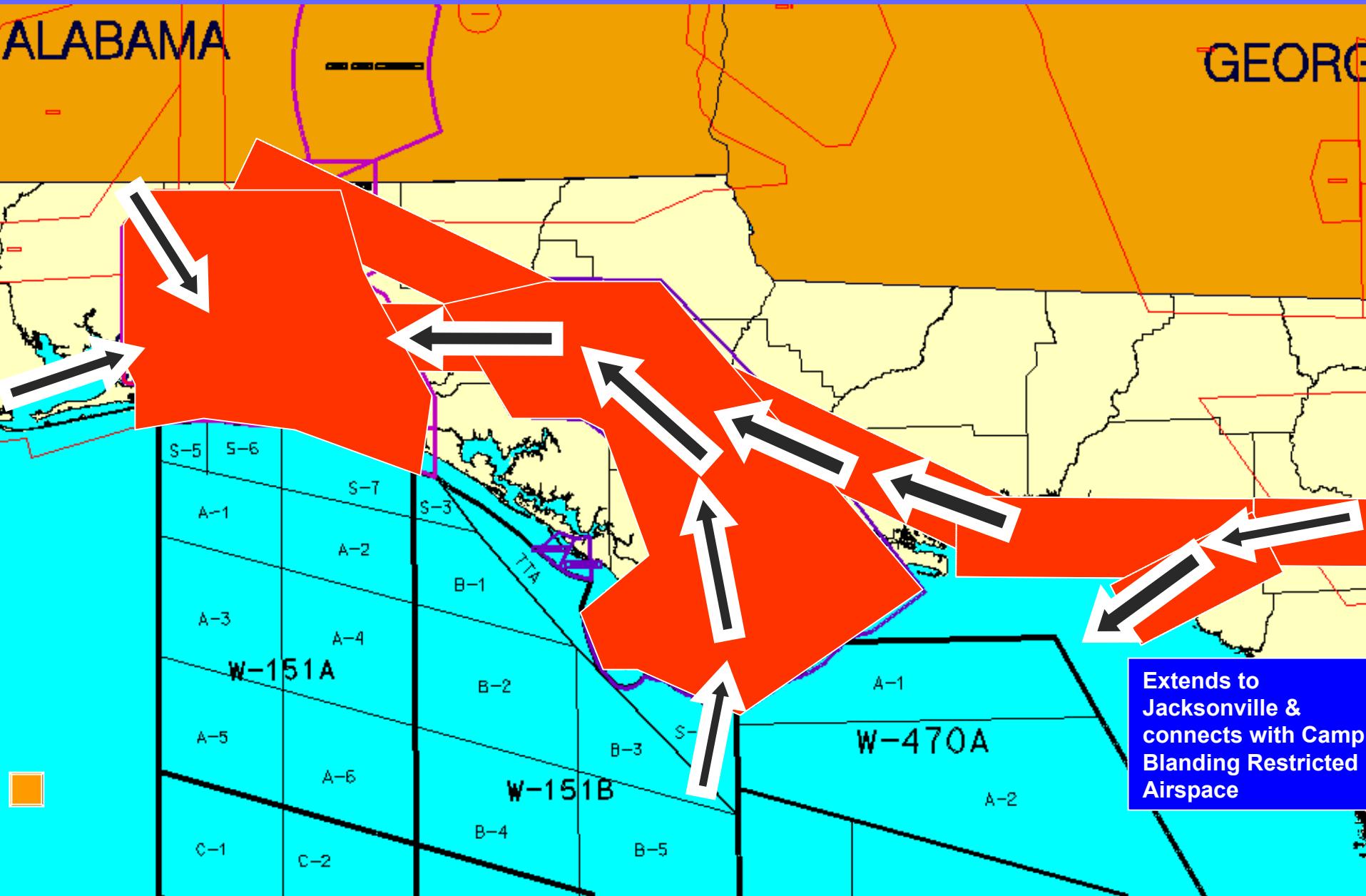
Example: GIS overlay of critical airspace with TNC conservation objectives, find matching goals

- Form partnership to pursue coincident objectives, bring other stakeholders on board, form action plan, implement

# Joint Gulf Range Complex



# Joint Use Regional Airspace



**DRAFT**  
**FLORIDA PANHANDLE**  
**CONCEPTUAL CONSERVATION**  
**STUDY MAP**



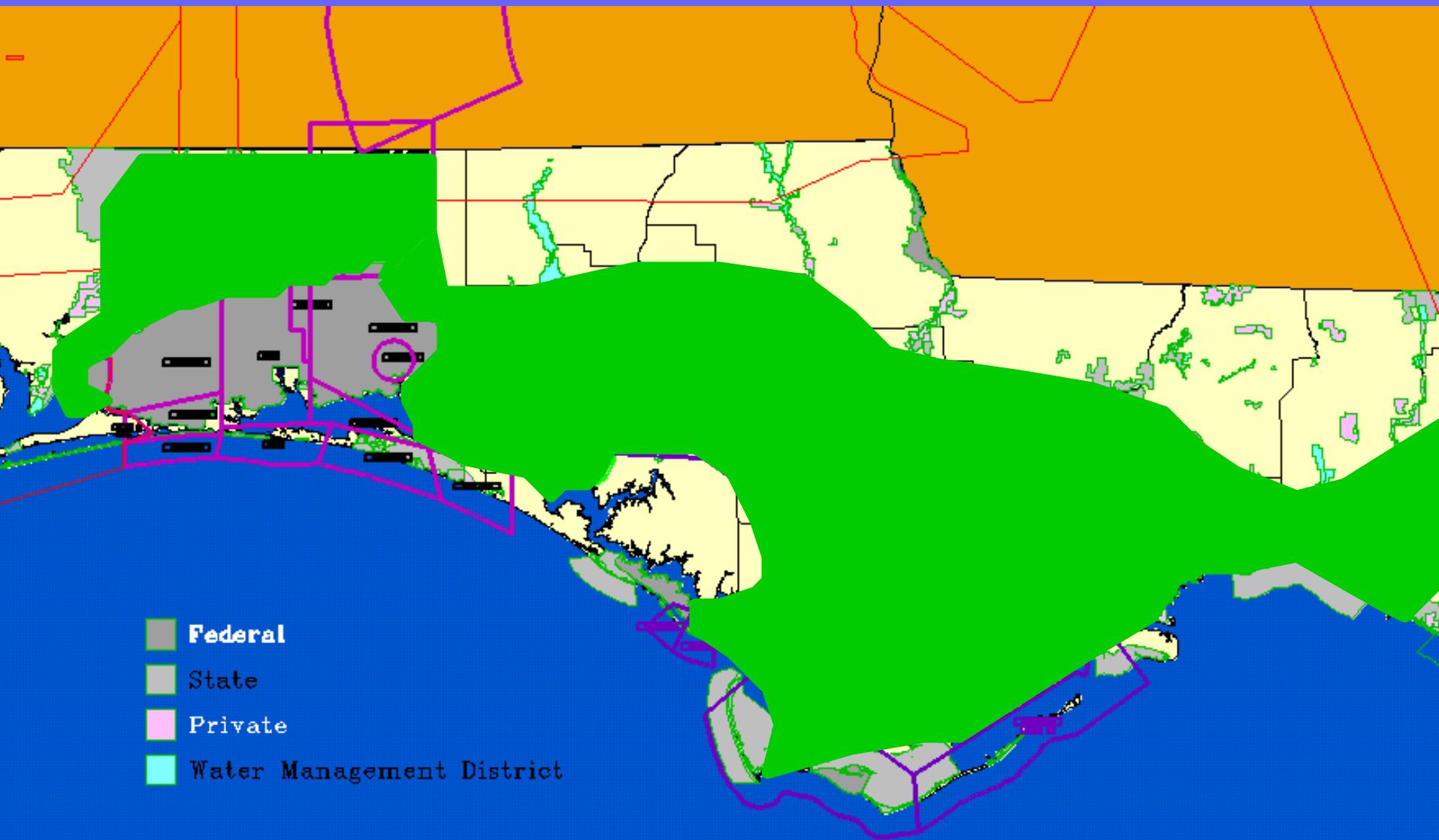
SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH

- BUFFER/PROTECTED AREAS
- MAJOR ROADS AND HIGHWAYS
- HIGH PRIORITY CONSERVATION AREAS
- PLANNING AREAS
- DOD TAYLOR COUNTY OPTION
- MANAGED AREAS
- FLORIDA FOREVER PROJECTS
- 2003 FLORIDA FOREVER PROPOSALS

THIS MAP IS INTENDED TO SHOW AREAS OF CONSERVATION INTEREST.  
SUCH LAND AND WATER MIGHT BE CONSERVED UNDER A WHOLE RANGE  
OF CONSERVATION TOOLS FROM EFFECTIVE PRIVATE LAND MANAGEMENT TO PUBLIC ACQUISITION.  
IN ADDITION, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO SELL  
THESE PROPERTIES IN REGIONAL LANDSCAPES TO STYLIC THEM FROM USE  
FOR PRIVATE PURPOSES. THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY REGULATORY PURPOSES.

0 10 20 30 40 MILES

# Greenway General Study Area





# Potential DoD Corridors

## with Florida Forever and Managed Lands



Okaloosa  
Economic  
Development  
Council



Air  
Armament  
Center



The Nature  
Conservancy



Florida  
Department of  
Environmental  
Protection



# Leveraging Non-DoD Funding and Programs

- Other Federal Programs
  - Numerous federal programs provide funding for conservation and habitat restoration/protection
    - Federal land acquisition
    - Incentives to private landowners
- State Programs
  - Traditional State conservation programs
    - Prime examples: Florida and California
  - New programs and bond initiatives specifically targeted at protecting DoD bases
    - Recent examples: Pima County (Arizona) and North Carolina
  - Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies under the State Wildlife Grant Programs

# Leveraging Non-DoD Funding and Programs

- Conservation NGOs like TNC can be key strategic partners in leveraging these non-DoD programs
  - We know the programs
  - We know the players at the local, state, regional, and national levels
- What we DON'T know in detail is what DoD cares about, where, and in what priority
  - Perimeter buffers, noise/safety zones are fairly obvious and information is relatively available (JLUS, etc) - however -
  - Information about and priorities for key areas of DoD concern NOT in the immediate vicinity of the fenceline is not readily available

# INFORMATION IS THE KEY

- The Georgia pilot project
  - Compilation of areas in Georgia of concern to DoD
  - Overlay with private, state, and non-DoD federal conservation and open space preservation programs
  - Lead NGO is The Conservation Fund
- Formal tasking to the Defense Installation Spatial Data Infrastructure (DISDI) to gather data from installations in Georgia - possible extension country-wide?
- Possible incorporation of data into Georgia's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

# FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

- Off-base wetland mitigation banking
  - New authority for DoD to participate in wetland mitigation banking in connection with on-base construction projects
- Off-base habitat banking
  - Not clearly authorized now
  - Would allow increased flexibility on installations
- Authority to exchange environmentally sensitive DoD lands for new training land adjacent to base
  - Would need legislation to authorize
    - General authority?
    - Case by case?
  - Possible example: Avon Park

## THE TAKEAWAYS

- The Nature Conservancy and other conservancy organizations think of DoD as a key partner, and view DoD installations and ranges as extremely valuable and well-managed areas
- Achieving sustainable ranges is in our interest as well as yours - we are natural allies
- We can function as “portals” to private, state, and non-DoD federal land protection programs and funding
- The essential element is comprehensive, detailed, and accurate information about areas of concern to DoD “outside the fenceline”- and the key to that may well be DISDI